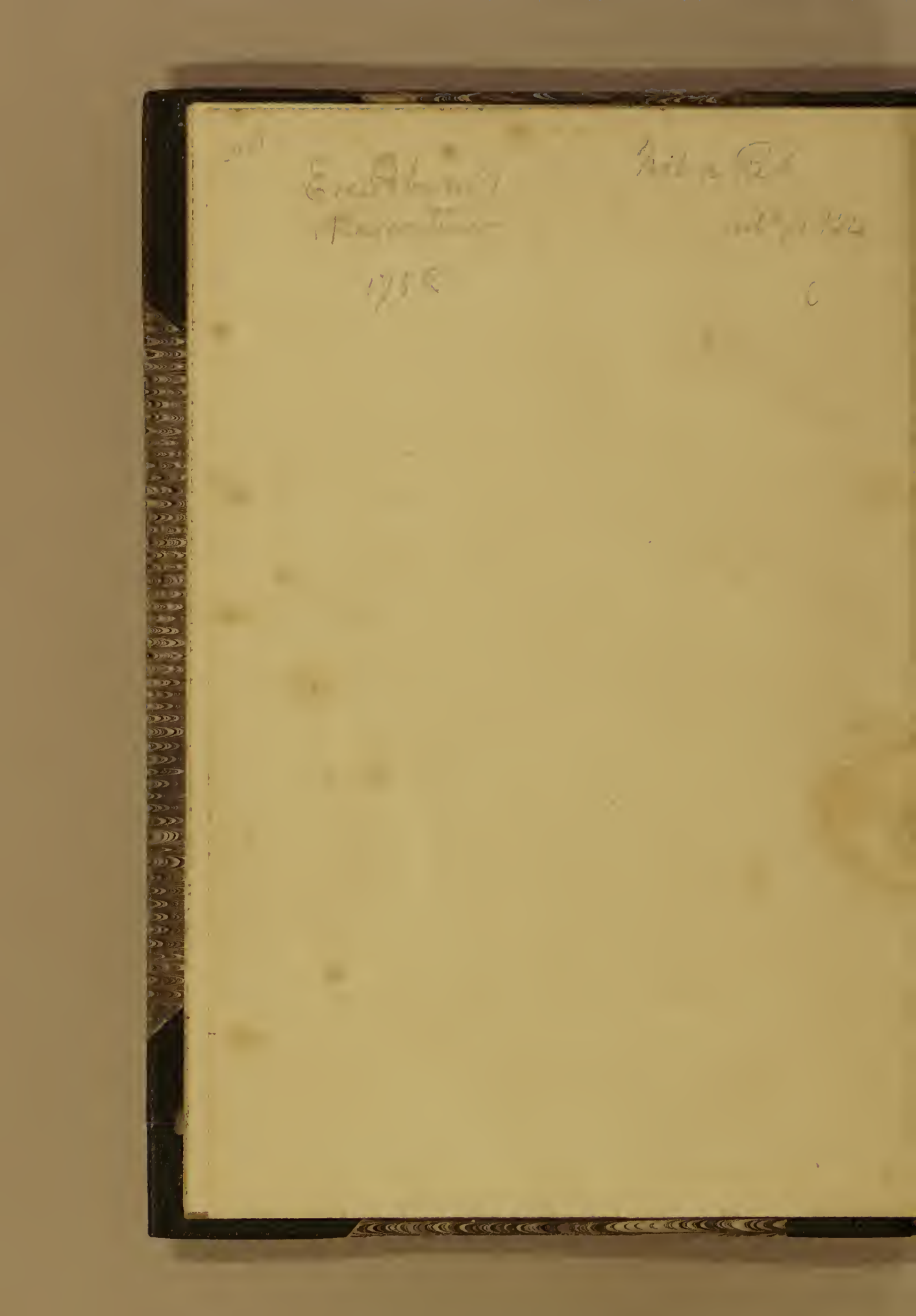
John Carter Brown.



A Faithful

NARRATIVE

OF

The many *Dangers* and *Sufferings*, as well as wonderful and surprizing *Deliverances* of ROBERT EASTBURN; during his late *Captivity* among the INDIANS: Together with some *Remarks* upon the *Country* of CANADA, and the *Religion* and *Policy* of its *Inhabitants*; the whole intermixed with devout *Reflections*.

By *Robert Eastburn*.

Published at the earnest Request *of many* Persons, *for the Benefit of the* Public.

With a recommendatory PREFACE, by the Rev. *GILBERT TENNENT*.

PSALM 124. 6, 7. *Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us up as a Prey to their Teeth; our Soul is escaped as a Bird out of the Snare of the Fowler: The Snare is broken, and we are escaped.*

PSALM 103. 2, 4. *Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits: Who redeemeth thy Life from Destruction; who crowneth thee with loving Kindness, and tender Mercies.*

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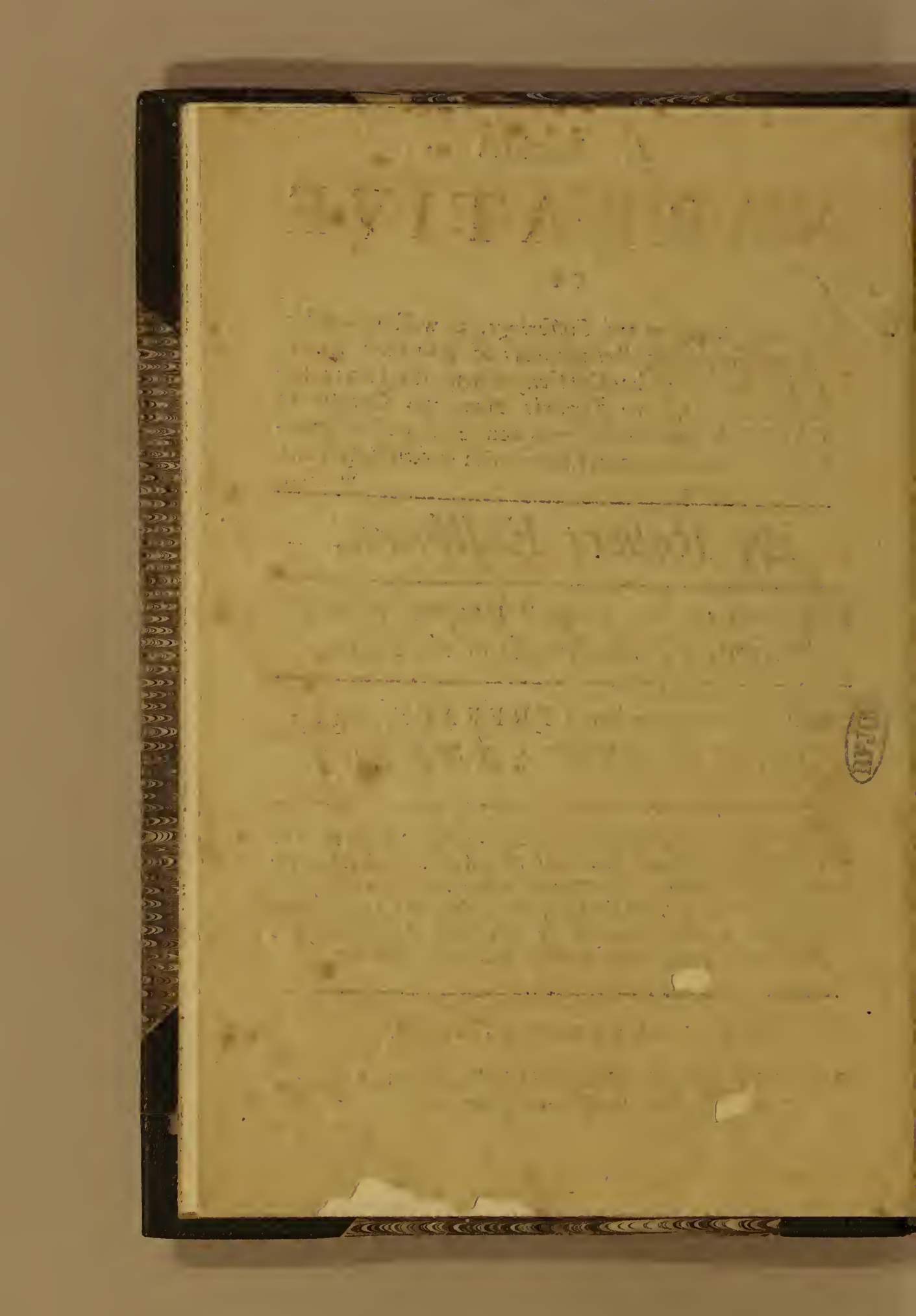

PREFACE

Candid Reader,

THE AUTHOR (*and* Subject) *of the enſuing* Narrative (*who is a* Deacon *of our* Church, *and has been ſo for many Years*) *is of ſuch an eſtabliſhed good Character, that he needs no Recommendation of others, where he is known: A Proof of which, was the general Joy of the Inhabitants of this City, occaſioned by his* Return *from a miſerable* Captivity! *Together with the Readineſs of divers Perſons, to contribute to the Relief of* himſelf, *and* neceſſitous Family, *without any Requeſt of his, or the leaſt Motion of that Tendency!—But ſeeing the following Sheets are like to ſpread into many Places, where he is not known, permit me to ſay, That upon long Acquaintance, I have found him to be a Perſon of* Candor, Integrity, *and ſincere* Piety; *whoſe Teſtimony, may with Safety, be depended upon; which give his* Narrative *the greater* Weight, *and may induce to read it with the greater* Pleaſure; *the Deſign of it is evidently* Pious, *the Matters contained in it, and Manner of handling them, will, I hope, be eſteemed by the Impartial, to be enteraining and improving;*

improving : I heartily wish it may, by the divine Benediction, *be of great and durable* Service. *I am, thy sincere Servant, in the Gospel of* JESUS CHRIST.

PHILADELPHIA,
Jan. 19, 1758.

Gilbert Tennent.

Kind READERS,

ON *my Return from my* Captivity, *I had no Thoughts of publishing any* Observations *of mine to the World, in this Manner ; as I had no Opportunity to keep a* Journal, *and my* Memory *being broken, and* Capacity *small, I was disinclined to undertake it ; but a Number of my* Friends *were pressing in their Perswasions, that I should do it ; with whose Motion I complied, from a sincere Regard to* GOD, *my* King, *and* Country, *so far as I know my own Heart : The following Pages contain, as far as I can remember, the most material* Passages *that happened within the Compass of my Observation, while a* Prisoner *in* Canada ; *the Facts therein related are certainly true, but the Way of representing some Things especially, is not so regular, clear and strong, as I could wish ; but I trust it will be some* Apology, *that I am not so much acquainted with Performances of this Kind, as many others ; who may be hereby excited to give better Representations of Things. far beyond my Knowledge. I remain,*

Your unfeigned Well-Wisher,
and humble Servant,

PHILADELPHIA,
Jan. 19, 1758.

Robert Eastburn.

A

Faithful Narrative, &c.

ABOUT Thirty Tradesmen, and myself, arrived at Captain *Williams*'s Fort (at the *Carrying-Place*) in our Way to *Oswego*, the 26th of *March*, 1756; who informed me, that he was like to be cumbered in the *Fort*, and therefore advised us to take the *Indian-House* for our *Lodging*. About Ten o'Clock next Day, a Negro Man came running down the Road, and reported, That our *Slaymen* were all taken by the *Enemy*; Captain *Williams* on hearing this, sent a *Serjeant*, and about 12 Men, to see if it was true; I being at the *Indian House*, and not thinking myself safe there, in Case of an Attack, and being also sincerely willing to serve my *King* and *Country*, in the best Manner I could in my present Circumstances, asked him if he would take Company? He replied, with all his Heart! Hereupon, I fell into the Rear, with my Arms, and marched after them; when we had advanced about a Quarter of a Mile, we heard a *Shot*, followed with doleful *Cries* of a *dying Man*, which excited me to advance, in order to discover the Enemy, who I soon perceived were prepared to receive us: In this difficult Situation, seeing a large Pine-Tree near, I repaired to it for Shelter;

Shelter ; and while the Enemy were viewing our Party, I having a good Chance of killing two at a Shot, quickly discharged at them, but could not certainly know what Execution was done 'till some Time after ; our Company likewise discharged and retreated : Seeing myself in Danger of being surrounded, I was obliged to Retreat a different Course, and to my great Surprize, fell into a deep Mire, which the Enemy, by following my Track in a light Snow, soon discovered, and obliged me to Surrender, to prevent a cruel Death. (They stood ready to drive their Darts into my Body, in case I refused to deliver up my Arms.) Presently after I was taken, I was surrounded by a great Number, who stripped me of my Cloathing, Hatt, and Neckcloth (so that I had nothing left but a Flannel Vest, without Sleeves) put a Rope on my Neck, bound my Arms fast behind me, put a long Band round my Body, and a large Pack on my Back, struck me on the Head (a severe Blow) and drove me through the Woods before them : It is not easy to conceive, how distressing such a Condition is ! In the mean Time, I endeavoured with all my little remaining Strength, to lift up my Eyes to God, from whom alone I could with Reason expect Relief !

SEVENTEEN or Eighteen *Prisoners*, were soon added to our Number, one of which informed me, that the *Indians* were angry with me, and reported to some of their *Chiefs*, that I had fired on them, wounded one, and killed another ; for which he doubted they would kill me. Hereupon I considered that the Hearts of all Men are in the Hand of God, and that one Hair of our Head cannot fall to the Ground without his Permission : I had not as yet learned what Numbers the Enemy's Parties consisted of ; there being only about 100 *Indians* who had lain in Ambush on the Road, to kill or take into Captivity all

that

that passed between the two Forts. Here an Interpreter came to me, to enquire what Strength Capt. *Williams* had to defend his Fort? After a short Pause, I gave such a discouraging Answer (yet consistent with Truth) as prevented their attacking it, and of Consequence the Effusion of much Blood; a gracious Providence, which I desire ever to retain a grateful Sense of; for hereby it evidently appeared, that I was suffered to fall into the Hands of the Enemy, to promote the *Good* of my *Countrymen*, to better Purpose than I could, by continuing with them; verily the *Almighty is wise in Council, and wonderful in Working.*

In the mean Time, the Enemy determined to destroy *Bull's Fort* (at the Head of *Wood Creek*) which they soon effected, all being put to the *Sword*, except five Persons, the *Fort* burnt, the *Provision* and *Powder* destroyed (saving only a little for their own Use) then they retired to the *Woods*, and joined their main Body, which inclusive, consisted of 400 *French*, and 300 *Indians*, commanded by *one* of the principal *Gentlemen* of *Quebec*; as *soon* as they got together (having a *Priest* with them) they fell on their Knees, and returned *Thanks* for their *Victory*; an Example this, worthy of Imitation! an Example which may make prophane pretended *Protestants* blush (if they are not lost to all Sense of Shame) who instead of acknowledging a God, or Providence, in their military Undertakings, are continually reproaching him with Oaths and Curses; is it any Wonder, that the Attempts of such are blasted with Disappointment and Disgrace!

The Enemy had several wounded Men both *French* and *Indians* among them, which they carried on their Backs; besides which, about Fifteen of their Number were killed, and of us about Forty: It being by this Time near dark, and some *Indians* drunk, they only marched

marched about 4 Miles and encamped; the *Indians* untied my Arms, cut Hemlock Bowes, and ſtrewed round the Fire, tied my Band to two Trees, with my Back on the green Bowes (by the Fire) covered me with an old Blanket, and lay down acroſs my Band, on each Side, to prevent my Eſcape, while they ſlept.

SUNDAY the 28th, roſe early, the *Commander* ordered a haſty Retreat towards *Canada*, for fear of General *Johnſon*; in the mean Time, one of our Men ſaid, he underſtood the *French* and *Indians* deſigned to join a ſtrong Party, and fall on *Oſwego*, before our Forces there, could get any Proviſion or Succours; having, as they thought, put a ſtop to our relieving them for a Time: When encamped in the Evening, the *Commanding-Officer* ordered the *Indians* to bring me to his Tent, and aſked me, by an Interpreter, If I thought General *Johnſon* would follow them, I told him I judged not, but rather thought he would proceed to *Oſwego* (which was indeed my Sentiment, grounded upon prior Information, and then expreſſed to prevent the Execution of their Deſign.) He farther inquired, what was my Trade? I told him that of a *Smith*; he then perſwaded me, when I got to *Canada*, to ſend for my Wife, 'for ſaid he, you can get a rich Living there;' but when he ſaw that he could not prevail, he aſked no more Queſtions, but commanded me to my *Indian* Maſter: Having this Opportunity of Converſation, I informed the *General*, that his *Indian Warriors* had ſtripped me of my *Cloathing*, and would be glad he would be good enough to order me ſome Relief; to which he replied, that I ſhould get Cloaths when I came to *Canada*, which was cold Comfort to one almoſt frozen! On my return, the *Indians* perceiving I was unwell, and could not eat their coarſe Food, ordered ſome Chocolate (which they had brought from the *Carrying-Place*)

to

to be boiled for me, and ſeeing me eat that, appeared pleaſed. A ſtrong *Guard* was kept every Night; one of our Men being weakened by his Wounds,and rendered unable to keep Pace with them, was *killed* and *ſcalped* on the Road!—I was all this Time almoſt naked, traveling through deep *Snow*, and wading through *Rivers* cold as Ice!

After Seven Days March, we arrived at *LakeOntario*, where I eat ſome *Horſe Fleſh*, which taſted very agreably, for *to the hungry Man*, as *Solomon* obſerves, *every bitter Thing is ſweet (a)*. The *French* carried ſeveral of their wounded Men all the Way upon their Backs; many of them wore noBreeches in their Travels in this cold Seaſon, being ſtrong, hardy Men. The *Indians* had three of their Party wounded,which they likewiſe carried on their Backs, I wiſh there was more of this *Hardneſs*, ſo neceſſary for *War*,in our Nation,which would open a more encouraging Scene than appears at preſent! The *Priſoners* were ſo divided, that but few could Converſe together on our March, and (which was ſtill more diſagreeable and diſtreſſing) an *Indian*, who had a large *Bunch* of green *Scalps*, taken off our Men's Heads, marched before me, and another with a ſharp *Spear* behind, to drive me after him; by which Means

 the

a On the Friday before we arrived at the *Lake*, the *Indians* killed a *Porcupine*, which is in bigneſs equal to a large *Racoon*, with ſhort *Legs*,is covered with long Hair,intermixed with ſharp *Quills*, which are their *Defence*: It is indeed dangerous coming very near them, becauſe they caſt their *Quills* (which are like barbed Irons or Darts) at any Thing that oppoſeth them,which when they peirce, are not eaſy to be drawn out; for tho' their *Points* are ſharp and ſmooth, they have a kind of *Beard*, which makes them ſtick faſt: However,the *Indians* threw it on a large Fire, burnt off the Hair and Quills, roaſted and eat of it, with whom I had a Part.

the *Scalps* were often close to my Face, and as we marched, they frequently every Day gave the *dead Shout*, which was repeated as many Times as there were *Captives* and *Scalps* taken! In the midst of this gloomy *Scene*, when I considered how many poor Souls were hurried into a vast Eternity, with Doubts of their Unfitness for such a Change, it made me lament and expostulate in the Manner following; O Sin what hast thou done! what Desolation hast thou brought into this miserable World? What am I, that I should be thus spared? My Afflictions are certainly far less than my Sins deserve! Through the exceeding Riches of divine Goodness and Grace, I was in this distressing Situation supported and comforted, by these Passages of sacred Scripture, *viz. That our light Afflictions, which last but for a Moment, shall work for us a far more exceeding and eternal Weight of Glory.* And that, though *no Afflictions are for the present joyous, but grievous;* yet nevertheless, *they afterwards yield the peaceable Fruits of Righteousness, to them who are exercised thereby.* And farther, that *all Things shall work together for Good, to them that love God; to them who are the Called, according to his Purpose.* But to return,

I MAY, with Justice and Truth observe, That our *Enemies* leave no Stone unturned to compass our ruin; they pray, work, and travel to bring it about, and are unwearied in the Pursuit; while many among us *sleep* in a *Storm*, that has laid a good Part of our Country desolate, and threatens the Whole with Destruction: O that we may *be of good Courage, and play the Man, for our People, and the Cities of our God!* But alas, I am obliged to turn my Face towards cold *Canada*, among inveterate *Enemies*, and innumberable *Dangers!* O Lord, I pray thee, be my Safe-guard; thou hast already covered me in

in the Hollow of thy Hand; when *Death* caſt Darts all around me, and many fell on every Side, I beheld thy Salvation!

April 4th, SEVERAL *French Battoes* met us, and brought a large Supply of Proviſion; the Sight of which cauſed great Joy, for we were in great Want; then a Place was ſoon erected to celebrate *Maſs* in, which being ended, we all went over the Mouth of a River, where it empties itſelf into the Eaſt-End of *Lake Ontario*, a great Part of our Company ſet off on Foot towards *Oſwegotchy*; while the reſt were ordered into Battoes, and carried towards the Entrance of *St. Lawrence* (where that River takes its Beginning) but by reaſon of bad Weather, Wind, Rain, and Snow, whereby the Waters of the Lake were troubled, we were obliged to lie-by, and hall our Battoes on Shore; here I lay on the cold Shore two Days. *Tueſday* ſet off, and entered the Head of *St. Lawrence*, in the Afternoon; came too late at Night, made Fires, but did not lie down to ſleep; embarked long before Day, and after ſome Miles Progreſs down the River, we ſaw many Fires on our Right-Hand, which were made by the Men who left us, and went by Land, with them we ſtaid till Day, and then again embarked in our Battoes, the Weather was very bad (it ſnowed faſt all Day) near Night arrived at *Oſwegotchy*; I was almoſt ſtarved to Death, but hoped to ſtay in this *Indian Town* till warm Weather; ſlept in an *Indian Wigwam*, roſe early in the Morning (being *Thurſday*) and ſoon to my Grief diſcovered my Diſappointment! Several of the Priſoners had leave to tarry here, but I muſt go 200 Miles farther down Stream, to another *Indian Town*; the Morning being extreamly cold, I applied to a *French* Merchant (or Trader) for ſome old *Rags* of Cloathing, for I was almoſt naked, but to no Purpoſe!

ABOUT

About Ten o'Clock, was ordered into a *Battoe*, on our Way down the *River*, with 8 or 9 *Indians*, one of which was the Man wounded in the Skirmiſh before mentioned; at Night we went on Shore, the Snow being much deeper than before, we cleared it away, and made a large Fire; here, when the wounded *Indian* caſt his Eyes upon me, his oldGrudge revived, took my *Blanket* from me, and commanded me to *dance* round the *Fire* Bare-foot, and *ſing* the *Priſoners Song*, which I utterly refuſed; this ſurprized one of my fellow Priſoners, who told me they would put me to *Death* (for he underſtood what they ſaid) he therefore tried to perſuade me to comply, But I deſired him to let me alone, and was through great Mercy, enabled to reject his Importunity with Abhorrence! The *Indian* alſo continued urging, ſaying, you ſhall dance and ſing; but apprehending my Compliance ſinful, I determined to perſiſt in declining it at all Adventures, and to leave the Iſſue to the divine Diſpoſal! The *Indian* perceiving his Orders diſobeyed, was fired with Indignation, and endeavoured to *puſh* me into the *Fire*, which I leapt over, and he being weak with his Wounds, and not being aſſiſted by any of his Brethren, was obliged to deſiſt: For this gracious Interpoſure of *Providence*, in preſerving me both from *Sin* and *Danger*, I deſire to bleſs God while I live!

Friday Morning, was almoſt periſhed with Cold. *Saturday*, proceeded on our Way and ſoon came in Sight of the upper Part of the Inhabitants of *Canada*; here I was in great Hopes of ſome Relief, not knowing the Manner of the *Indians*, who do not make many *Stops* among the *French*, in their Return from *War*, till they get *Home*: However when they came near ſome rapid Falls of Water, one of my fellow Priſoners, and ſeveral *Indians*, together with myſelf, were put on Shore, to travel

vel by Land, which pleaſed me well, it being much warmer running on the *Snow*, than lying ſtill in the Battoe; we paſt by ſeveral *French* Houſes, but ſtopt at none; the Veſſel going down a rapid Stream, it required haſte to keep Pace with her, we croſſed over a Point of Land, and found the Battoe waiting for us, as near the Shore as the Ice would permit: Here we left *St. Lawrence*, and turned up *Conaſadauga River* (*b*), but it being frozen up, we hauled our *Battoe* on Shore, and each of us took our Share of her Loading on our Backs, and marched towards *Conaſadauga* an *Indian Town*, which was our deſigned Port, but, could not reach it that Night: Came to a *French* Houſe, cold, weary, and hungry; here my old Friend, the wounded *Indian*, again appeared, and related to the *Frenchman*, the Affair of my refuſing to *dance*, who immediately aſſiſted the *Indian* to ſtrip me of my *Flannel*

b The River *St. Lawrence*, at *Lake Ontario*, takes its Beginning through ſeveral *Iſlands*, by which we are in no neceſſity of coming within Sight of *Frontenac*, when we go down the River; it is ſmooth Water from thence to *Oſwegotchy* (or as it is called by the *French* LEGALET) but from hence to *Montreal*, the Water is more ſwift, with a Number of rapid Streams, though not dangerous to paſs through with ſmall Boats and Bark Canoes, provided the Stearſmen are careful and acquainted with the Places; in tranſporting Proviſion and warlike Stores up Stream from *Canada* to *Lake Ontario*, there is a neceſſity of unloading Battoes at ſeveral of the rapid Streams, and hauling them empty through ſhoal Water near the Shore; and carrying the Loading by Land to where the Water is more ſlack; though there be ſeveral of thoſe Places, yet the Land-Carriage is not very far: The Land on both Sides the River appears fertile a great Part of the Way from the *Lake* to *Montreal*; but the nearer the Latter the worſe, more mirey and ſtony: The *Timber* is *White Pine*, *Aſh*, *Maple*, *Hickory*, *Beach*, *Hemlock*, *Spruce*; and from the Lake about 150 Miles down plenty of *White Oak*, but none at *Montreal* of that Kind.

Flannel Veſt, before mentioned, which was my All: Now they were reſolved to compel me to *dance* and *ſing!* The *Frenchman* was as violent as the *Indian*, in promoting this Impoſition; but the Women belonging to the Houſe, ſeeing the *rough Uſage* I had, took pity on me, and reſcued me out of their Hands, till their Heat was over, and prevailed with the *Indian* to excuſe me from Dancing; but he inſiſted that I muſt be ſhaved, and then he would let me alone (I had at that Time a long *Beard*, which the Indians hate) with this Motion I readily complied, and then the *Indians* ſeemed content.

SUNDAY, *April* 11*th*, Set off towards *Conaſadauga*, traveled about two Hours, and then ſaw the *Town* over a great River, which was ſtill frozen; the *Indians* ſtopped, and we were ſoon joined with a Number of our own Company, which we had not ſeen for ſeveral Days: The *Priſoners*, in Number Eight, were ordered to lay down our *Packs*, and be *painted*; the wounded *Indian* painted me, and put a Belt of Wampum round my Neck, inſtead of the *Rope* which I had wore 400 Miles. Then ſet off towards the Town on the Ice, which was four Miles over; our Heads were not allowed to be covered, leſt our fine Paint ſhould be hid, the Weather in the mean Time very cold, like to freeze our Ears; after we had advanced nearer to the Town, the *Indian* Women came out to meet us, and relieved their Husbands of their Packs.

As ſoon as we landed at *Conaſadauga*, a large Body of *Indians* came and incompaſſed us round, and ordered the *Priſoners* to *dance* and *ſing* the *Priſoners Song*, (which I was ſtill enabled to decline) at the Concluſion of which, the *Indians* gave a Shout, and opened the Ring to let us run, and then fell on us with their Fiſts, and knocked ſeveral down; in the mean Time, one ran before to direct

us

us to an *Indian* Houſe, which was open, and as ſoon as we got in, we were beat no more; my Head was ſore with beating;and pained me ſeveral Days. The *Squaws* were kind to us, gave us boiled Corn and Beans to eat, and Fire to warm us, which was a great Mercy, for I was both cold and hungry: This Town lies about 30 Miles North-Weſt from *Montreal*, I ſtaid here till the Ice was gone, which was about Ten Days, and then was ſent to *Cohnewago*, in Company with ſome *Indians*, who when they came within Hearing, gave *Notice* by their Way of Shouting, that they had a *Priſoner*, on which the whole Town roſe to welcome me,which was the more diſtreſſing, as there was no other *Priſoner* in their Hands; when we came near Shore, a ſtout *Indian* took hold of me, and hauled me into the Water, which was Knee deep,and very cold: As ſoon as I got a-ſhore,the *Indians* gathered round me, and ordered me to *dance* and *ſing*, now when I was ſtiff with Cold and Wet, and lying long in the Cannoe; here I only *ſtamped* to prepare for my Race, and was incompaſſed with about 500 *Indians*, who danced and ſung, and at laſt gave a Shout, and opened the Circle; about 150 young Lads made ready to Pelt me with Dirt and gravel Stones,and on my ſetting off gave me a ſmart Volley, without my ſuffering great Hurt; but an *Indian* ſeeing me run, met me,and held me faſt,till the Boys had ſtored themſelves again with Dirt and ſmall Stones, and let me run; but then I fared much worſe than before,for a ſmall Stone among the Mud hit my Right-Eye, and my Head and Face were ſo covered with the Dirt, that I could ſcarce ſee my Way; but diſcovering the Door of an *Indian* Houſe ſtanding open, I run in: From this *Retreat* I was ſoon hauled, in order to be pelted more; but the *Indian* Women being more merciful interpoſed, took me into a Houſe,brought me Water to waſh, and gave me boiled

boiled Corn and Beans to eat. The next Day, I was brought to the Center of the Town, and cried according to the *Indian* Cuſtom, in order to be ſent to a Family of *Indians*, 200 Miles up Stream, at *Oſwegotchy*, and there to be adopted, and abuſed no more : To this End, I was delivered to three young Men, who ſaid I was their Brother, and ſet forward on our Way to the aforeſaid Town, with about 20 more *Indians*, but by reaſon of bad Weather, we were obliged to encamp on a cold, ſtony Shore, three Days, and then proceeded on ; called at *Conaſadauga*, ſtaid there about a Week, in which Time, I went and viewed four Houſes, at a diſtance from the Town, about a Quarter of a Mile from each other ; in which, are repreſented in large *Paint-Work*, the *Sufferings* of our *Saviour*, with Deſign to draw the *Indians* to the *Papiſt's Religion* ; the Work is curiouſly done : A little farther ſtands three Houſes near together, on a high Hill, which they call *Mount Calvary*, with three large Croſſes before them, which compleats the whole Repreſentation : To all theſe Houſes, the Prieſts and *Indians* repair, in performing their grand Proceſſions, which takes up much Time *.

SET

* The Pains the *Papiſts* take to propagate ſuch a bloody and abſurd Religion as theirs, is truly amazing ! This brings to my Remembrance, the following Diſcourſe, I had with two *French* Prieſts in my Captivity ; one of them aſked me, if I was a Catholic ; apprehending he meant the *Romiſh Religion*, I anſwered no ; he replied, no Bon. On my relating the above to a fellow Priſoner, he ſaid, I had anſwered wrong, becauſe by the Word *Catholic*, he meant a *Chriſtian* : Some Time after, I was again aſked by the other Prieſt, if I was a *Catholic*, I anſwered yes, but not a *Roman Catholic* ; at which he ſmiled, and aſked if I was a *Lutheran*, I replied no ; he again inquired whether I was a *Calviniſt*, I told him I was : to which he ſaid, with warmth, *no Bon ! no Bon !* which ſignifieth, it is not good ! O ! may not the Zeal of

SET off on our *Journey* for *Oſwegotchy*, againſt a rapid Stream, and being long in it, and our Proviſion growing ſhort, the *Indians* put to Shore a little before Night; my Lot was to get Wood, others were ordered to get Fires and ſome to Hunt; our Kettle was put over the Fire with ſome pounded Indian Corn, and after it had boiled about two Hours, my oldeſt Indian Brother, returned with a She-Beaver, big with Young, which he ſoon cut to Pieces, and threw into the Kettle, together with the *Guts*, and took the four young Beavers, whole as they came out of the Dam, and put them likewiſe into the Kettle, and when all was well boiled, gave each one of us a large Diſhful of the Broth, of which we eat freely, and then Part of the old Beaver, the Tail of which was divided equally among us, there being eight at our Fire; the Four young Beavers were cut in the Middle, and each of us got Half a Beaver; I watched an Opportunity to hide my Share (having ſatisfied myſelf before that tender Diſh came to Hand) which if they had ſeen, would have much diſpleaſed them. The other *Indians* catched young *Muſk-Rats*, run a Stick through their Bodies, and roaſted, without being ſkinned or gutted, and ſo eat them. Next Morning haſtened on our Journey, which continued ſeveral Days, till we came near *Oſwegotchy*, where we landed about three Miles from the Town, on the contrary Side of the River; here I was to be adopted, my *Father* and *Mother* that I had never ſeen before were waiting, and ordered me into an *Indian* Houſe, where we were directed to ſit down ſilent for a conſiderable Time, the *Indians* appeared very ſad, and my Mother began to cry, and continued crying aloud for ſome Time, and then

C dried

of *Papiſts*, in propagating *Superſtition* and *Idolatry*, make *Proteſtants* aſhamed of their Luke-warmneſs, in promoting the *Religion* of the *Bible*!

dried up her Tears, and received me for her Son, and took me over the River to the *Indian* Town ; the next Day I was ordered to go to *Mass* with them, but I refused once and again, yet they continued their Importunity several Days, saying it was good to go to *Mass*, but I still refused ; and seeing they could not prevail with me, they seemed much displeased with their newSon (*d*). I was then sent over the River, to be employed in hard Labour, as a Punishment for not going to *Mass*,and not allowed a Sight of, or any Conversation with myFellow-Prisoners ; the old *Indian* Man that I was ordered to work with, had a Wife, and some Children, he took me into the Woods with him, and made Signs that I must chop, giving me an Ax, the *Indian* soon saw that I could handle the Ax : Here I tried to reconcile myself to this Employ, that they might have no Occasion against me, except concerning the Law of my God ; the old Man began to appear kind, and his Wife gave me Milk and Bread when we came Home,and when she got Fish,gave me the Gills to eat, out of real Kindness ; but perceiving I did not like them, gave me my own choice, and behaved lovingly ! Here I saw thatGod could makeFriends of cruel Enemies, as he once turned the Heart of angry *Esau* into Love and Tenderness ; when we had finished our

d When I was at *Oswegotchy*, the *Indians* took Notice, that I frequently retired alone, and supposing I had some bad Design, threatned if I did not desist, they would *Tomhawk* me ; but my fellow Prisoner, who understood their Language, told them it would be a pity to hurt me on that Account, for I only went into a private Place to pray ! which was true ; the *Indians* replied, if so it was *good* ; but being yet suspicious, took Pains by watching to find out how the case was, and when they satisfied themselves, seemed pleased ! and did not offer to *interrupt* me any more, which was a great Mercy ; as the Contrary would have in some Degree, marred my Converse with God.

our Fence, which had employed us about a Week, I ſhewed the old *Squaw* my *Shirt* (having worn it from the Time I was firſt takenPriſoner, which was about ſeven Weeks) all in *Rags*, *Dirt*,and *Lice* ; ſhe ſaid it was not good, and brought me a new one, with ruffledSleeves (ſaying that is good) which I thankfully accepted. The next Day they carried me back to the *Indian* Town, and admitted me to converſe with my Fellow-Priſoners, who told me we were all to be ſent to *Montreal*, which accordingly came to paſs.

MONTREAL, at our Arrival here, we had our Lodging firſt in the *Jeſuit's Convent*,where I ſaw a greatNumber of Prieſts, and People that came to Confeſſion ; after ſome ſtay, we were ordered to attend, with the *Indians*, at a grand Council, held before the head General *Vaudriel* ; we Priſoners ſat in our Rank (ſurrounded with our Fathers and Brethren) but were aſked noQueſtions : The General had a Number of Officers to attend him in Council, where a noted Prieſt, called *Picket*, ſat at his Right-Hand, who underſtands the *Indian* Tongue well, and does more Hurt to the *Engliſh*,than any other of his Order in *Canada*, (hisDwelling is at *Oſwegotchy*). Here I was informed that ſomeMeaſures were concerted to deſtroy *Oſwego*, which they had been long preparing to execute ; we in our Journey met manyBattoes going up Stream, with Proviſion and Men for an Attack on our Frontiers, which confirmed the Report : The Council adjourned to another Day, and then broke up. My *Indian* Father and Mother took me with them to ſeveral of their old Acquaintance, who were *French*, to ſhew them their lately adopted Son ; theſe Perſons had been concerned with my Father and other *Indians*, in deſtroying many *Engliſh* Families in their younger Days ; and (as one ſtanding by who underſtood their Language, ſaid,)

were

were boasting of their former *Murders !* After some Days the *Council* was again called, before which, several of the *Oneida Chiefs* appeared, and offered some Complaints against the *French*'s attacking our *Carrying-Place*, it being their Land ; but the *General* laboured to make them easy and gave them sundry Presents of Value, which they accepted (*e*) : After which, I knowing these *Indians* were acquainted with Captain *Williams*, at the *Carrying-Place* sent a *Letter* by them, to let myFamily and Friends know that I was yet alive, and longed for *Redemption* ; but it never come to Hand. The Treaty being ended, the *General* sent about ten Gallons of *red Wine* to the *Indians*, which they divided among us ; after

e The *French* in*Canada*, well knowing the great Importance of having the *Indians* in their *Interest*, to promote their ambitious and unjust Designs, use a variety of Methods with them, among which,the following one is excellent in itself,and well worthy of Imitation, *viz.* They are exceeding careful to prevent *spirituous Liquors* being *sold* to the*Indians*;and if any of the Inhabitants are proved guilty of it, their temporal Interest is quite broke, and corporal Punishment inflicted on them ; unless the *General*, on some particular Occasion, orders his *Commissioners* to deliver some to them. I may add, that knowing their Number is small, compared with the *British Inhabitants* on this *Continent*, and must quickly fall into their Hands, in case we united, and entered boldly into the Heart of their Country with a *sufficient Force* ; for that very Reason, they choose to keep us continually on the *Defensive*, by sending when Occasion requires, large Bodies of Regulars, together with a great Number of *Indians*, upon long and tedious *Marches*, that we may not come near their *Borders* ; and especially by employing the Latter, constantly to waste and ravage our *Frontiers*, by which we are murdered by Inches, and beat without a battle ! By what I could learn when I was among them, they do not fear our Numbers, because of our unhappy *Divisions*, which they deride, and from them, strongly expect to conquer us entirely ! which may a gracious God in Mercy, prevent !

after came the *Presents*, consisting of *Coats*, *Blankets*, *Shirts*, *Skins* (to make *Indian* Shoes) *Cloth* (to make Stockings) *Powder*, *Lead Shot*, and to each a *Bag* of *Paint* for their own Use, *&c.* After we *Prisoners* had our Share, my *Mother* came to me with an Interpreter, and told me I might stay in the Town, at a Place she had found for me, if I pleased (this was doubtless the Consequence of my declining to obey her Orders, in some Instances that affected my Conscience) this Proposal I almost agreed to; but one of my fellow Prisoners, with whom I had before some Discourse about making our *Escape*, from the *Indian* Town, opposed the Motion, and said, 'pray do not stay, for if you do, we shall not 'be able to form a Plan for our Deliverance;' on which I told her I chose to go Home with her, and soon set off by Land in our Way thither, to *Lascheen*, distant from *Montreal* about 9 Miles, where we left our Cannoes, and then proceeded, without Delay, on our Journey; in which I saw to my *Sorrow*, great Numbers of *Soldiers*, and much *Provisions*, in Motion towards *Lake Ontario*.

After a painful and distressing Journey, we arrived at *Oswegotchy*, where we likewise saw many *Battoes*, with Provisions and Soldiers, daily passing by in their Way to *Frontenac*, which greatly distressed me for *Oswego!* Hence I resolved, if possible, to give our People Notice of their Danger: To this End, I told two of my Fellow-Prisoners, that it was not a Time to *sleep*, and asked if they would go with me, to this they heartily agreed; but we had no Provision, were closely eyed by the Enemy, and could not lay up a Stock out of our Allowance: However, at this Time, Mr. *Picket* (before mentioned) had concluded to dig a large Trench round the Town; I therefore went to a *Negro*, the principal Manager of this

this Work (who could ſpeak *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Indian*, well) and aſked him, if he could get Employ for two others, and myſelf, which he ſoon did; for which we were to have *Meat* and *Wages*. Here we had a Proſpect of procuring Proviſion for our Flight; this, I in ſome Time effected for myſelf, and then aſked my Brethren if they were ready, who replied they were not yet, but ſaid, *Ann Bowman*, our fellow Priſoner, had brought 130 Dollars from *Bull's Fort*, and would give them all they had Need of, I told them it was not ſafe to diſcloſe ſuch a Secret to her, but they blamed me for my Fears, and applied to her for *Proviſion*, letting her know our Intention, who immediately informed the *Prieſt* of it: on which we were apprehended, the *Indians* appriſed of our Deſign, and a *Court* called; by Order of which, four of us were confined in a Room under a ſtrong Gnard within the Fort, for ſeveral Days.

From hence, another and myſelf were ſent to *Cohnewago*, under a ſtrong Guard of 60 Indians, to prevent my plotting any more againſt the *French*, and baniſh all Hope of any Eſcape! However, when we arrived at this Place, it pleaſed God, who has the Hearts of all Creatures in his Hand, to incline the *Captain* of the *Guard*, to ſhew me great Kindneſs, in giving me Liberty to walk or work where I pleaſed, within any ſmall Diſtance; on which I went to work with a *French* Smith, for ſix Livers and five Souſe per Week; which the Captain let me have to myſelf, and farther favoured me with the Priviledge of Lodging at his Mother's Houſe, an *Engliſh* Woman (named *Mary Harris*, taken Captive when a Child, from *Deerfield*, in *New-England*) who told me ſhe was my Grand-mother, and was kind; but the Wages being ſmall, and not ſufficient to procure ſuch Cloathing as I was in Want of, I proceeded no farther with the *French* Smith,

but

but went to my Uncle *Peter*, and told him I wanted Cloaths, and that it would be better to let me go to *Montreal*, and work there, where I could Cloath myſelf better, than by ſtaying with him, and that without any Charge to him, who after ſome Reaſoning conſented.

SET off on my Journey to *Montreal*, and on my entring the City met an *Engliſh* Smith, who took me to work with him; after ſome Time, we ſettled to work in a Shop, oppoſite to the General's Door, where we had the Opportunity of ſeeing a great Part of the Forces of *Canada* (both Soldiers and *Indians*) who were commonly brought there, before their going out to War; and likewiſe all *Priſoners*, by which Means we got Intelligence how our People were preparing for Defence; but no good News from *Oſwego*, which made me fear, knowing that great Numbers of *French* were gone againſt it, and hearing of but few to defend it. Prayers were put up in all the Churches of *Canada*, and great Proceſſions made, in order to procure Succeſs to their Arms, againſt poor *Oſwego*; but our People knew little of their Danger, till it was too late: Certainly, if more frequent and earneſt Application (both in private and public) was made to the *God of Battle*, we might with greater Probability expect, Succeſs would crown our military Attempts! To my Surprize, the diſmal News came, that the *French* had taken one of the *Oſwego* Forts: In a few Hours, in Confirmation of this, I ſaw the *Engliſh* Standards (the melancholy Trophy of Victory) and the *French* rejoicing at our Downfall, and mocking us poor Priſoners, in our Exile and Extremity, which was no great Argument either of Humanity, or true Greatneſs of Mind; great Joy appeared in all their Faces, which they expreſſed by loud Shouts, firing of Cannon, and returning Thanks in their Churches; but our Faces were covered with Shame, and

our

our Hearts filled with Grief !—Soon after, I ſaw ſeveral of the *Officers* brought in Priſoners in ſmall Parties, and theSoldiers in the ſameManner,and confined within the Walls, in a ſtarving Condition, in order to make them Work, which ſome complied with, but others bravely refuſed ; and laſt of all came the*Tradeſmen*, among whom was my *Son* who looking round ſaw his *Father*, who he thought had long been *dead* ; this joyful Sight ſo affected him, that he wept !—nor could I, in ſeeing my *Son*, remain unconcerned !—no ; the Tenderneſs of aFather's Bowels, upon ſo Extraordinary an Occaſion, I am not able to expreſs, and therefore muſt cover it with a Vail of Silence !—But he, with all my *Philadelphia* Friends, being guarded by Soldiers, with fixed Bayonets,we could not come near each other, they were ſent to the common Pound ; but I haſtened to the Interpreter, to try if I could get my Child at Liberty, which was ſoon effected ! When we had the Happineſs of an Interview,he gave me ſome Information of the State of ourFamily, and told me, as ſoon as the News were ſent home, that I was killed,or taken, his Mother was not allowed any more Support from my Wages, which grieved me much, and added to my other Afflictions *(f)* !

WHEN

f In the meanTime, it gave me ſome Pleaſure, in this Situation, to ſee an Expreſſion of equal *Duty* and *Prudence* in my *Sons* Conduct ; who, though young in Years (about 17) and in ſuch a confuſed State of Things, had taken care to bring, with much Labour and Fatigue, a large *Bundle* of conſiderable Value to me, it being *Cloathing, &c.* which I was in great Need of ; he likewiſe ſaved aQuantity of *Wampum*, which we brought from *New-York*, and afterwards ſold here, for 150 Livers. He traveled with me Part of the Journey towards *Oſwego*, but not being ſo far on his Way, as I was when taken, he did not then fall into the Enemy's Hands, but continued *free* till *Oſwego* was taken

When the People taken at *Oswego*, were setting out on their Way to *Quebec*, I made Application for Liberty to go with them; but the Interpreter replied, that I was an *Indian* Prisoner; and the General would not suffer it, till the *Indians* were satisfied; and as they lived Two Hundred Miles from *Montreal*, it could not be done at that Time: Finding that all Arguments, farther on that Head, would not avail, because I was not included in the *Capitulation*; I told the Interpreter, my Son must go

 and

ken, and was then remarbably delivered from the Hands of the *Indians*, in the following Manner, 15 young *Lads* were drafted out to be delivered to them (which from their known Custom, it is reasonable to conclude, was to fill up the Number they had lost in the Battle) among which he was one: This *barbarous Design*, which, is contrary to *Laws* of *War*, among all *civilized Nations*, the *French* artfully concealed, under the Pretext of sending them to work in the Battoes; but my Child taking Notice, that all that were chosen were *small Lads*, doubted their real Intention was bad, and therefore slipt out of his *Rank* and concealed himself, by which Means, under God, he was preserved from a State of perpetual *Captivity*; his Place being filled up in his Absence, the other unhappy Youths were delivered up a *Sacrifice* to the *Indian Enemy*, to be instructed in *Popish Principles* and employed in *Murdering* their *Countrymen*; yea, perhaps their *Fathers* and *Brethren*, O horrible! O lamentable! How can the *French* be guilty in cold Blood, of such prodigious Iniquity? Besides their insatiable Thirst of Empire, Doubtless the Pardons they get from their *Pope*, and their *Priests*, embolden them, which brings to my Mind, what I saw when among them; On a Sabbath Day, perceiving a great Concourse of People at a *Chapel*, built on the Commons, at some Distance from the *City*, I went to see what was the Occasion, and found a kind of a *Fair* at which were sold *Cakes*, *Wine*, *Brandy*, *&c.* I likewise saw many *Carts* and *Chaises* attending, the *Chapel* Doors in the mean Time open, Numbers of People going in and out, and a *Board* hanging over the Door, on which was written, in large Letters INDULGENCE PLENARY, or FULL PARDON.

and leave me! in order to be ready at *Quebec* to go Home, when the *Oswego* People went, which probably would be soon; he replied, 'It would be better to keep him with 'me, for he might be a Mean to get me clear much sooner.'

THE Officers belonging to *Oswego*, would gladly have had me with them, but found it impracticable; this is an Instance of Kindness and Condescension, for which I am obliged! Captain *Bradley*, gave me a good Coat, Vest, and Shirt; and a young Gentleman, who formerly lived in *Philadelphia*, gave Four Pistoles (his Name is *James Stone*, he was Doctor at *Oswego*.) These generous Expressions of Kindness and Humanity, I am under great Obligations to remember with affectionate Gratitude, and if ever it be in the Compass of my Power, to requite: This Money, together with what my Son brought, I was in Hopes would go far towards procuring my Release, from my *Indian* Masters; but seeing a Number of Prisoners in sore Distress, among which were the Captains *Grant* and *Shepherd*, and about Seven more in Company, I thought it my Duty to relieve them, and commit my Release to the Disposal of Providence! Nor was this suffered to turn to my Disadvantage in the Issue, for my Deliverance was brought about in due Time, in another, and unexpected Way. This Company informed me of their Intention to Escape, accordingly I gave them all the Help in my Power, saw them clear of the Town, on a Saturday Evening, before the Centries were set at the Gates, and advised them not to part from each other, and delivered to Captain *Shepard* two Pocket Compasses; but they contrary to this Counsel parted, and saw each other no more: By their separating, Captain *Grant*, and Serjeant *Newel*, were deprived of the Benefit of a Compass; the other Part got safe to Fort *William Henry*, as I was informed by Serjeant *Henry*, who was brought in Prisoner,

being

being taken in a Battle, when the gallant, indefatigable Captain *Rogers* made a brave Stand, againſt more than twice his Number,! But I have not heard any Account of Captain *Grant !* Was enabled, through much Mercy, to continue communicating ſome Relief to other Priſoners, out of the Wages I received for my Labour, which was 40 Livers per Month !

In the latter Part of the Winter, Coal and Iron were ſo ſcarce, that it was difficult to get any more Work ; I then offered to Work for my Diet and Lodging, rather than be thruſt into a ſtinking Dungeon, or ſent among the *Indians :* The Interpreter took ſome Pains (which I thankfully acknowledge) but without Succeſs ; however, as I offered to work without Wages, a *Frenchman* took me and my Son in upon theſe Terms, till a better Birth preſented ; here we ſtaid one Week, but heard of no other Place, then he offered me and my Son, 30 Livers per Month, to ſtrike and blow the Bellows, which I did for about two Months, and then was diſcharged, and travelled about from Place to Place, having no fixed Abode, and was obliged to lay out the ſmall Remains of my Caſh, in buying a little Victuals, and took a Hay-Loft for my Lodging : I then made my Caſe known to the kind Interpreter, and requeſted him to conſider of ſome Means for my Relief, who replied he would ; in the mean Time, as I was taking a Walk in the City, I met an *Indian* Priſoner, that belonged to the Town where my Father lived, who reported, that a great Part of the *Indians* there, were juſt come, with a Reſolution to carry me back with them ; and knowing him to be a very honeſt Fellow, I believed the Truth of it, and fled from the Town to be concealed from the *Indians ;* in the mean while, Schemes were formed for an Eſcape, and

 well

well profecuted : The Iffue of which was fortunate. General *Vaudriel*, gave me and my Son, Liberty (under his Hand) to go to *Quebec*, and work there at our Pleafure, without Confinement, as Prifoners of War ; by which Means, I was freed from paying a Ranfom !

The *Commiffary* Monfieur *Partwe*, being about to fet off for *Quebec*, my Son informed me that I muft come to Town in the Evening, a Paffage being provided for us ; I waited till near Dark, and then entered the Town, with great Care to efcape the Indians, who kept watch for me (and had done fo for fome Time) which made it very difficult and dangerous to move ; however as they had no Knowledge of my Son, he could watch their Motions, without their Sufpicion (the Providence of GOD is a great Deep, this Help was provided for my Extremity, not only beyond my Expectation, but contrary to my Defign.) In the Morning, upon feeing an *Indian* fet to watch for me, over againft the Houfe I was in, I quickly made my Efcape, through the back Part of the Houfe, over fome high Pickets, and out of the City, to the River Side, and fled ! A Friend knowing my Scheme for Deliverence, kindly affifted me to conceal myfelf : The Commiffary had by this Time got ready for his Voyage, of which my Son giving me Notice, I immediately, with no lingering Motion, repaired to the Boat, was received on board, fet quite off undifcovered, and faw the *Indians* no more ! A very narrow and furprizing Efcape, from a violent Death ! For they had determined to kill me, in cafe I ever attempted to leave them, which lays me under the ftrongeft Obligations, to improve a Life refcued from the Jaws of fo many Deaths, to the Honour of my gracious Benefactor !--But to return, the

Commiffary

Commiſſary upon ſeeing the Diſmiſſion I had from the General, treated us courteouſly! *(g)*

ARRIVED at *Quebec, May* 1ſt, The Honorable Colonel PETER SCHUYLER, hearing of my coming there, kindly ſent for me, and after enquiries about my Welfare, &c. generouſly told me I ſhould be ſupplied, and need not trouble myſelf for Support! This public-ſpirited Gentleman, who is indeed an Honour to his Country, did in like Manner, nobly relieve many other poor Priſoners at *Quebec!*----Here I had full Liberty to walk where I pleaſed, and view the City, which is well ſituated for Strength, but far from being impregnable.

HERE, I hope, it will not be judged improper, to give a ſhort Hint of the *French* Governor's Conduct; even in Time of Peace, he gives the *Indians* great Encouragement to Murder and Captivate the poor Inhabitants on our Frontiers; an honeſt good Man, named *William Roſs*, was taken Priſoner twice in the Time of Peace; when he was firſt taken, he learned a little of the *French* Language, was after ſome Time redeemed, and got to his Place of Abode: Yet ſome Years after, he, with two Sons, was again taken, and brought to *Quebec*; the Governor ſeeing the poor Man was Lame, and one of his Legs ſmaller than the other, reproved the *Indians* for not killing

g Saw many Houſes and Villages in our Paſs along the River St. *Lawrence* towards the Metropolis; and here it may with Juſtice be obſerved, that the Inhabitants of *Canada* in general, are principally (if not wholly) ſettled upon Rivers, by reaſon that their back Lands being flat and ſwampy, are therefore unfit to bear Grain. Their Wheat is ſown in the Spring of the Year, becauſe the Winter is long, and would drown it; they ſeem to have no good Notion of making Meadow (ſo far as I had an Opportunity of obſerving) their horned Cattle are few and poor, their Living in general mean, they eat but little Fleſh, nevertheleſs they are ſtrong and hardy.

killing him, asking, 'what they brought a lame Man there 'for, who could do nothing but eat! you should, said 'he, have brought his Scalp!' However, another of his Countrymen, more merciful than his Excellency, knowing the poor Prisoner to be a quiet, hard-working Man, redeemed him from the Indians; and two other *Frenchmen* bought his two Sons: Here they had been Slaves more than three Years, when I first arrived at *Quebec*; this Account I had from Mr. *Ross* himself, who farther added, that the Governor gave the Indians Presents, to encourage them to proceed, in that kind of Work, which is a Scandal to any civilized Nation, and what many Pagans would abhor! Here also, I saw one Mr. *Johnson*, who was taken in a Time of Peace, with his Wife and three small Children (his Wife was big with Child of a Fourth, and delivered en the Road to *Canada*, which she called *Captive*) all which had been Prisoners between three and four Years, several young Men, and his Wife's Sister, were likewise taken Captive with them, and made Slaves!

Our Cartel being ready, I obtained Liberty to go to *England* in her; we set Sail the 23d of *July*, 1757, in the Morning, and discharged our Pilot about 4 o'Clock in the Afternoon; after which we neither cast Anchor or Lead, till we got clear of the great River *St. Lawrence* from which I conclude, the Navigation is much safer then the *French* have reported; in 28 Days we arrived at *Plymouth*, which occasioned great Joy, for we were ragged, lowsy, sick, and in a Manner, starved; and many of the Prisoners, who in all were about 300 in Number, were sick of the Small-Pox: My Son and Self, having each a Blanket Coat (which we bought in *Canada* to keep us warm) and now expecting Relief, gave them to two poor sick Men, almost naked! But as we were not allowed to

go

go on Shore, but removed to a King's Ship, and ſent to *Portſmouth*, where we were ſtill confined on board, near two Weeks, and then removed to the *Mermaid*, to be ſent to *Boſton*; we now repented our well meant, though raſh Charity, in giving our Coats away, as we were not to get any more, all Application to the Captain for any Kind of Covering being in vain; our Joy was turned into Sorrow, at the Proſpect of coming on a cold Coaſt, in the Beginning of Winter, almoſt naked, which was not a little increaſed, by a near View of our Mother Country, the Soil and Comforts of which, we were not ſuffered to touch or taſte (*h*).

September the 6th, SET Sail for *Boſton*, with a Fleet in Convoy, at which we arrived on the Seventh of *November*, in the Evening, it being Dark, and we Strangers, and

h On board the *Mermaid* Man of War being in a diſtreſſed Condition, and hearing little from the Mouths of many of my Countrymen, but Oaths and Curſes (which much increaſed my Affliction,) and finding it difficult to get a retired Place I crept down into the Hold among the Water Caſks, to cry to God; here the Lord was graciouſly pleaſed to meet with me, and give me a Senſe of his fatherly Love and Care; here he enabled me (bleſſed be his Name for ever) to look back and view how he had led me, and guarded me with a watchful Eye and ſtrong Arm, and what Pains he had taken to wean me from an over-love of time, and Things, and make me content that he ſhould chooſe for me: Here I was enabled to ſee his great Goodneſs in all my Diſappointments, and that Afflictions were not Evidences of God's Wrath, but the Contrary, to all that honeſtly endeavour to ſeek him with Faith and Love; here I could ſay, God is worthy to be ſerved, loved, and obeyed, though it be attended with many Miſeries in this World! What I have here mentioned, ſo far as I know my Heart, is neither to exalt myſelf, or offend any one upon Earth, but to glorify God, for his Goodneſs and Faithfulneſs to the meaneſt of his Servants, and to encourage others to truſt in him!

and poor, it was difficult to get a Lodging (I had no Shoes, and but Pieces of Stockings, and the Weather in the mean Time very Cold) we were indeed directed to a *Tavern*, but found cold Entertainment there, the Master of the House seeing a ragged and lowsy Company, turned us out to Wander in the Dark; he was suspicious of us, and feared we came from *Halifax*, where the *Small-Pox* then was, and told us, he was ordered not to receive such as came from thence: We soon met a young Man, who said he could find a Lodging for us, but still detained us by asking many Questions; on which I told him we were in no Condition to answer, till we came to a proper Place, which he quickly found, where we were used well; but as we were lowsy, could not expect Beds.

The next Morning, we made Application for Cloathing; Mr. *Erving*, Son-in-Law to the late General *Shirley*, gave us Relief, not only in respect of Apparel, but also Three Dollars per Man, to bear our Charges to *Newport*: When I put on fresh Cloaths, I was seized with a cold Fit, which was followed by a high Fever, and in that Condition obliged to travel on Foot, as far as *Providence*, in our Way to *Rhode-Island* (our Money not being sufficient to hire any Carriage, and find us what was needful for Support:) In this Journey, I was exceedingly distressed! Our Comforts in this Life, are often allayed with Miseries which are doubtless great Mercies when they are suitably improved; at *Newport*, we met with Captain *Gibbs*, and agreed with him for our Passage to *New-York*, where we arrived, *November* 21st, met with many Friends, who expressed much Satisfaction at our Return, and treated us kindly, particularly Messrs. *Livingston*, and *Waldron*.

November 26th, 1757. ARRIVED at *Philadelphia*, to the great Joy of all my Friends, and particularly of my

my poor afflicted Wife and Family, who thought they ſhould never ſee me again, till we met beyond the Grave; being returned, ſick and weak in Body, and empty handed, not having any Thing for my Family's and my own Support, ſeveral humane and generous Perſons, of different Denominations, in this City (without any Application of mine, directly or indirectly) have freely given ſeaſonable Relief; for which, may God grant them Bleſſings in this World, and in the World to come everlaſting Life, for Chriſt's Sake!

Now God in his great *Mercy*, hath granted me a *temporal Salvation*, and what is a Thouſand Times better, he hath given me with it, a Soul ſatisfying Evidence of an *eternal* one in the World to come!

And now, what ſhall I render to the Lord for all his Benefits, alas I am nonpluſt! O that Saints and Angels might praiſe thee, for I am not worthy to take thy Name into my Mouth! Yet notwithſtanding, thou art pleaſed to accept poor Endeavours, becauſe Jesus Christ has opened the *Door*, whereby we may come boldly to the Throne of thy Grace, praiſed be the *Lord God Jehovah*, by Men and Angels, throughout all Eternity!

But to haſten to the Concluſion, ſuffer me with Humility and Sorrow to obſerve, that our *Enemies* ſeem to make a better Uſe of a bad *Religion*, than we of a *good One*; they riſe up long before Day in Winter, and go through the Snow in the coldeſt Seaſons, to perform their Devotions in the Churches: which when over, they return to be ready for their Work as ſoon as Day-Light appears: The *Indians* are as *zealous* in *Religion*, as the *French*, they oblige their Children to pray Morning and Evening particularly at *Conaſadauga*; are punctual in performing their ſtated Acts of

Devotion themſelves, are ſtill and peaceable in their own Families, and among each other as Neighbours !

When I compared our Manner of Living with theirs, it made me fear that the righteous God (who is wont to make Judgment begin at his own Houſe firſt) was about to deliver us into their Hands, to be ſeverely puniſhed for our Departure from him; how loeg has he waited for our Return, O that we may therefore turn to him, before his Anger break out into a Flame, and there be no Remedy.

Our Caſe appears to me indeed very Gloomy! notwithſtanding our Enemies are inconſiderable in Number, compared with us; yet they are united as one Man, while we may juſtly be compared to a *Houſe divided againſt itſelf*, and therefore cannot ſtand long, in our preſent Situation.

May Almighty GOD, graciouſly incline us to look to him for Deliverance, to repent of our Sins, reform our Lives, and unite in the vigorous and manly Uſe of all proper Means to this End. Amen.

FINIS.